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Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade

Programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/122, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a programme of educational outreach to mobilize, inter alia, educational institutions and civil society on the subject of remembering the transatlantic slave trade and slavery.

Through its educational outreach programme, the Department of Public Information seeks to address the lack of knowledge about the slave trade and to encourage broad study and discussion of the topic. To that end, the Department has developed a diverse educational outreach strategy to increase the awareness of and to educate present and future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the 400-year slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice.

The Department's multi-platform strategy comprises a series of activities, which began on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, includes follow-up activities throughout the year and has, as its core, an educational programme for intermediate and high school students that can be used at any time during the school year and which builds on the Slave Route Project developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

* A/63/150.

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I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 2007, the General Assembly, by its resolution 62/122, designated 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, beginning in 2008.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to collaborate with and build upon the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), including its Slave Route Project, in establishing a programme of educational outreach to mobilize educational institutions, civil society and others on the subject and to report to it at its sixty-third session on the establishment and implementation of the programme.

3. The present report outlines the programme of activities undertaken following the adoption of the resolution.

II. Background

4. The transatlantic slave trade played a major part in world history, yet little is known about the 400-year long slave trade or its lasting consequences throughout the world, including the important contributions made by slaves to the building of societies in the lands of their enslavement. This lack of information about the history of the trade extends even to some of the descendants of the enslaved peoples and to other populations, in particular those outside the areas directly involved in the trade in the Caribbean, Europe and the Americas.

5. A study of the lives of enslaved Africans in the Americas and the Caribbean reveals the capacity of human beings, even under dehumanizing conditions, to influence the societies in which they live. It shows some of the diverse ways in which people can confront and transcend oppression and offers examples of survival and growth in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

6. Against this background, the programme examines how the forced movement of African peoples across the Atlantic resulted in shifts in racial and cultural identity, racism, inequality and a marked decline in the African population. The transatlantic slave trade also had a significant economic and agricultural impact on European States and their colonies in the Americas and the Caribbean. The programme seeks to address the enforced acquiescence that pervaded the 400-year span of the slave trade and which is also present in modern forms of slavery, such as forced labour, human trafficking, child labour and child prostitution.

III. Goals

7. The mandate for establishing the outreach programme was assigned to the Department of Public Information, which defines its goals as follows:

(a) To impress upon civil society the importance and necessity of educating future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of the slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice;

(b) To encourage educational institutions to incorporate into their academic programmes, curricula and discussions, the subject of slavery and the transatlantic

slave trade, the contributions made by enslaved Africans to civilization, the legacy of the slave trade on contemporary society and the dangers of racism and prejudice;

(c) To mobilize civil society to examine the links between the transatlantic slave trade and modern forms of slavery.

IV. Educational outreach programme

8. "Breaking the Silence on the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Lest We Forget", the theme of the programme of events organized by the Department of Public Information, highlights the main focus of the programme to shed light on the history of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, which has largely been ignored; and to stimulate discussion and dialogue about the causes, consequences and legacy of the slave trade in order to create an understanding that would help prevent similar acts of racism infused with arrogance and prejudice from occurring in the future.

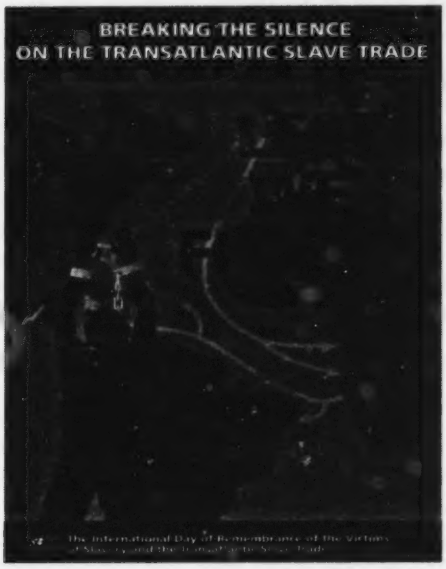
9. In planning the programme of outreach activities, the Department is pursuing both established and innovative methods to broaden its reach and deepen its impact. In addition to media interviews, press announcements, notes to correspondents and briefings to Member States, non-governmental organizations and youth groups, new technologies have also been employed to disseminate information about the slave trade.

10. The primary elements of the commemoration event included: a solemn remembrance on 25 March 2008, with a keynote speaker and African and Caribbean performers; related exhibits on various aspects of the issue; a panel discussion and briefing by experts for Member States and non-governmental partners; the world premiere of a new UNESCO documentary on the global slave trade; a videoconference to promote discussion on the issue among students in Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe; and the dissemination of relevant materials to the global network of United Nations information centres, services and offices. All of these activities were coordinated through a conscientious and targeted media outreach effort.

V. Activities

Honouring the victims of slavery and the slave trade

11. A number of events were held during the week of 25 March 2008 to launch the programme. In preparation, the Department of Public Information created a special logo and a commemorative poster to depict the theme "Breaking the Silence on the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Lest We Forget" (see below).



Solemn remembrance ceremony

12. The solemn remembrance ceremony began on the morning of 25 March 2008 with an event in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at Headquarters. The event was organized by the Department of Public Information in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ambassador's Caucus and the African Union.

13. The programme began with an African drumming ceremony. Statements were delivered by the Secretary-General, a representative of the President of the General Assembly and representatives of Member States. The keynote address was presented by Harry Belafonte, the renowned actor and musician, human rights activist and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who stated that, in order to avoid repeating the horrors of the past, it was vital that younger generations be informed and educated about the transatlantic slave trade. Slavery, he noted, still existed under new forms and names, including poverty:

> "Slavery has changed, people are not shackled anymore, but the mentality of slavery still exists in our society".

14. The observance, attended by delegates, representatives of non-governmental organizations, media, staff and the public, featured performances by drummers, dancers and singers from Guinea, Mali and Senegal, a poet from Liberia and a steel pan troupe from the Caribbean. The event, telecast live by United Nations Television and webcast globally, can be viewed at www.un.org/webcast.

Remembrance website

15. The Department established a website to facilitate global access to the commemorative activities. The website also provides educational resources on the transatlantic slave trade with links to lesson plans and curricula, teacher training materials, information materials, university programmes, museums, travelling exhibits and archived statements, speeches and videos of the events at Headquarters organized in connection with the outreach programme.

Bookstore launch

16. In connection with the remembrance ceremony, the United Nations bookstore hosted a "meet the author" event on 27 March featuring Professor Verene Shepherd of the Department of History of the University of the West Indies. A number of books on the transatlantic slave trade are now available in the bookstore, including United Nations publications, scholarly studies, fiction and poetry.

Fact sheet

17. The Department reissued a fact sheet on the slave trade, highlighting the background of this brutal economic system, and its legacy. The sheet describes how the trade was justified globally and identifies the countries along the triangular route, which started and ended in Europe, from where guns, alcohol and horses were exported to West Africa in exchange for enslaved Africans. Only one in six Africans survived the voyage across the Atlantic, known as the "Middle Passage". The survivors were sold in the Americas and the Caribbean where they produced the prized goods, including sugar, tobacco, cotton, rum and coffee, that were shipped to Europe.

Slave narrative on the Middle Passage

"The stench of the hold ... was so intolerable loathsome that it was dangerous to remain there for any time, and some of us had been permitted to stay on the deck for the fresh air; but now that the whole ship's cargo was confined together it became absolutely pestilential. The closeness of the place and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated ... and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died, thus falling victims to the improvident avarice, as I may call it, of their purchasers. This wretched situation was again aggravated by the galling of the chains, now become insupportable, and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women and the groans of the dying rendered the whole scene of horror almost inconceivable."

The Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African.
Written by himself, 1789.

Olaudah Equiano was born in Iboland, Nigeria, around 1745. At about the age of 14, he and his younger sister were kidnapped on the outskirts of the village by slave raiders. He was taken to the coast, sold to traders and placed on board a vessel bound for Barbados. For the better part of

his early life, he was enslaved in various English colonies, but finally found his freedom in England where he became a principal spokesman in the anti-slavery movement.

Exhibitions

18. In observance of the International Day of Remembrance, there was an exhibition in the Visitors' Lobby from 17 March to 22 April 2008. The exhibit was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, after which statements were made by the Department's partners from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Amistad America. The theme of the exhibit was echoed in the performances by a jazz violinist and a folk guitarist.

19. The exhibition consisted of two parts, "The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo" and "*Amistad*: The Story". The first segment comprised 52 narrative drawings from the book, "The Middle Passage", by the artist Tom Feelings. The drawings were mixed media works detailing the horror of the transportation of Africans from their old world of freedom to the new world of slavery. The exhibit also included three sculptures by the same artist.

20. The segment on the *Amistad* featured a scale model of the freedom schooner, the vessel on which 53 Africans mutinied in 1839. At the time of the exhibit, a full-scale replica of the ship was on a voyage retracing the triangular route, docking at the following former slave trading ports: Halifax, Canada; Liverpool and Bristol, United Kingdom; Lisbon; London; Freetown; Dakar; Praia, Cape Verde; Barbados; Puerto Rico; Bermuda; Charleston, United States of America; and New York City. Over the past 18 months, the *Amistad* has travelled a total of 14,000 miles, providing thousands of people with the chance to learn about the slave trade and the contributions of slaves to the countries where they were sent. Photos of the voyage were on display in the United Nations exhibit, and students on board the ship took part in a videoconference (see para. 22 below).

Briefing for non-governmental organizations and film premiere

21. On 27 March 2008, the Department organized a briefing for its partners in the community of non-governmental organizations in observance of the International Day, commencing with the premiere of the documentary "The Slave Route: A Global Vision". The producer of the film, Dr. Sheila Walker, presented little known facts about the slave trade and called for a rewriting of its history. Other speakers discussed global efforts to gain recognition for the tragedy and the legacy of slavery, past and present, as well as plans to combat racial discrimination worldwide.

Student videoconference

22. The Department, in collaboration with Amistad America, held a videoconference for students in observance of the International Day on 28 March. The conference linked students at sites in Oslo, Halifax, Bristol, Freetown, Praia, Castries, Saint Lucia, and Headquarters for a discussion of the reasons behind and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. Several students had previously participated in the UNESCO Slave Route Project; others, retracing the Middle Passage on board the *Amistad*, were linked via satellite to the videoconference.

Outreach by the United Nations information centres

23. The network of United Nations information centres, services and United Nations offices commemorated the International Day either individually or jointly with local civil society partners and Governments. The commemorative poster, "Breaking the Silence on the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Lest We Forget", was distributed throughout the network and a songwriting competition was launched.

24. The United Nations information centre in Port-of-Spain is participating in year-long activities emanating from the Trinidad and Tobago National Planning Committee to commemorate the slave trade. The centre provided resource materials and assistance for a full-page newspaper announcement published in three local dailies on 25 March and for an eight-page newspaper supplement, published on the same day in the *Trinidad and Tobago Express*, which contained essays by academics and advocates.

25. The United Nations information centre in Lagos launched a campaign to encourage schools to participate in the Department's songwriting competition on the subject of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. More than 25 entries were submitted to the centre. On 25 June 2008, the centre arranged a visit to the Heritage Museum in Badagry, where a curator provided a guided tour of the remains of a slave camp and slave market, and described the history of the slave trade to students and teachers from the Badagry Senior Secondary School.

Information outreach

26. As part of its outreach programme, the Department facilitated the live webcast of the 25 March solemn observance on the Internet. A recording by United Nations Television was made available through its UNIFEED programme to television stations worldwide. The Media Liaison and Accreditation Unit provided services to a number of journalists who covered the commemorative event. United Nations staff were kept informed through stories posted on i-Seek, which appeared on 20 and 25 March. In addition, the Department publicized the programmes in the daily *Journal of the United Nations*, at the noon briefing of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, in event calendars of New York-based print media and through its extensive e-mail alert services for United Nations accredited non-governmental organizations and subscribers to the United Nations News Centre. The Meetings Coverage Section issued press releases in English and French on the subject, including notes to correspondents and the message of the Secretary-General.

27. The *United Nations Chronicle* placed two articles relating to the commemoration at Headquarters on its website. Electronic alerts were also transmitted to Permanent Missions to the United Nations, offices and staff members as well as to subscribing non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and individuals.

28. United Nations Radio produced several documentaries and news magazine stories on the commemoration in English and Spanish. The English programmes included a 15-minute "Caribbean news magazine" and a story in the United Nations and Africa series, entitled "The United Nations Remembers the Victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade". United Nations Radio features in Spanish traced the issue of slavery in Latin America and focused on the commemoration at

Headquarters. United Nations radio programmes are heard on more than 61 English-speaking and 67 Spanish-speaking radio stations in 112 countries.

Evaluation activities

29. The activities related to the commemorative events were evaluated by the Department as part of its annual programme impact review for 2008, an assessment of the effectiveness of its educational outreach strategy in increasing awareness of and educating present and future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. Events targeted at civil society for the International Day were considered to have been both useful and informative. The briefing and panel discussion organized in New York for representatives of non-governmental organizations was considered useful by 99 per cent of the participants, with an average usefulness rate of 4.8 on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 was the most positive rating, and the level of information disseminated was rated 4.9 out of 5. The student event was given an overall rating of 4.2 out of 5, and was considered informative by 83 per cent of the surveyed participants. Three-quarters of the participants reported that they wished to learn more about the issue. According to preliminary results of a Departmental assessment, the commemorative activities generated 71 articles in the press.

VI. Future activities

30. In the coming year, the Department will focus on further enhancing its educational outreach programme, which will include dissemination of the UNESCO documentary "The Slave Route: A Global Vision" and the development of educational materials to facilitate the use of the film in schools and institutions around the world.

31. The Department will continue to work with Member States and to expand its partnerships with civil society organizations to encourage the holding of events around the world to commemorate the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade and recount the contributions of enslaved Africans. It will expand its multimedia educational outreach targeted at students at all levels and civil society groups, to encourage the study of the historical impact and legacy of slavery and the slave trade, especially in the interactions between the peoples of Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe.

32. The outreach programme will seek to increase the number of schools that incorporate the study of slavery and the slave trade by making educational material available in multiple platforms. It will continue to devise innovative means and methods by which this mandate can be realized and to mobilize activities that reinforce and strengthen the momentum and the level of public awareness generated over the past decade.

33. The Department will continue to seek and to build relationships with partners and to widen the range of activities offered under the programme as options for sponsorships and co-sponsorships arise. It will work to integrate the history of and the lessons learned from the transatlantic slave trade into its many activities, which are intended to build and expand communities of understanding and to promote the unlearning of intolerance. The Department is aware of how critical this mission is at the present time, when the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights is being observed in a world where its provisions are far from universally enjoyed.

34. The Secretary-General has noted that today, over two hundred years after the banning of the slave trade by Denmark, the United States and the United Kingdom, many millions of people are still subjected to similar practices. As he observed at the opening of the exhibit, "Lest We Forget: The Triumph over Slavery", on 1 March, "The victims are typically too scared to speak out. For all that has been accomplished in our campaign for human rights, we still have much to do". The Department of Public Information pledges, through its programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade, to continue to contribute to that mission.

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Advancement of women

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/143, the present report gives an overview of measures taken by States, as well as by intergovernmental bodies, to address violence against women. The report concludes with recommendations for future action.

* A/63/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/143 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on the implementation of the resolution and requested that the report include, at its sixty-second session, information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution (see A/62/201); and at the sixty-third session of the Assembly, information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

2. In its resolution 62/133, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit an oral report at its sixty-third session with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 61/143 and 62/133.

3. In paragraph 8 of resolution 61/143, the General Assembly urged States to take action to eliminate all forms of violence against women by means of a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, adequately supported and facilitated by strong institutional mechanisms and financing, through national action plans, including those supported by international cooperation and, where appropriate, national development plans, including poverty eradication strategies and programme-based and sector-wide approaches, and outlined detailed actions towards that end. In paragraph 10, the Assembly urged States to integrate gender perspectives into the comprehensive national development plans and poverty eradication strategies that address the social, structural and macroeconomic issues, and to ensure that such strategies address violence against women and girls. It also urged States to ensure the systematic collection and analysis of data on violence against women, including with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors (para. 11). The Assembly also invited the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations bodies to address violence against women (paras. 17 and 18).

4. Based on inputs received from Member States in response to a note verbale, the present report summarizes measures taken by States to (a) strengthen gender equality frameworks (addressing in particular para. 8 (a), (b), (c), (e), (l), (p) and (q) and para. 10 of the resolution); (b) develop and enhance policy frameworks and provide resources to address violence against women (in particular para. 8 (g), (p) and (q) and para. 10); (c) end impunity for perpetrators and protect women (in particular para. 8 (i) and (o)); (d) prevent violence against women (in particular para. 8 (f), (h), (i) and (k)); (e) provide services for victims/survivors (in particular para. 8 (j)); (f) build the capacity of relevant stakeholders (in particular para. 8 (d), (n) and (m)); and (g) enhance data collection (in particular para. 11). It also discusses efforts of intergovernmental bodies to address violence against women (in particular paras. 17 and 18).

II. Measures taken by States to implement the resolution

5. As of 6 June 2008, 44 States[1] had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information on the implementation of resolution 61/143.

A. Enhancing gender equality frameworks

6. Violence against women is rooted in power imbalances and structural inequality between men and women. It is a form of discrimination against women and a human rights violation. Comprehensive measures to secure gender equality and protect women's human rights, in accordance with the international human rights framework, are necessary for the effective prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women.

7. States have enhanced legal and policy frameworks for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by incorporating relevant provisions in their national constitutions (Algeria, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru and Turkey); enacting gender equality laws (Australia, Japan, Estonia, Finland, Peru and Viet Nam); and reviewing and revising discriminatory laws (Brazil, Haiti and Ukraine). Oman has initiated a review of laws, policies and practices with the aim of abolishing or revising those that are discriminatory against women. The Gender Equality Duty introduced in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2007 places an obligation on public sector organizations to promote gender equality.

8. Several States reported about their national action plans on gender equality (the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Ukraine). There is also a trend towards integrating measures to achieve gender equality into national development plans (Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, Hungary and Turkey). Some States, including the Czech Republic, Estonia and Luxembourg, have mainstreamed gender perspectives into action plans on employment, health, social affairs, social inclusion and/or sustainable development. Some of these plans also specifically address violence against women.

9. Discriminatory sociocultural attitudes that perpetuate women's subordinate status in society pose a challenge to achieving gender equality. The education system can be used as a vehicle to change such attitudes and promote a culture of human rights and gender equality. Several States that submitted information for the present report highlighted efforts to address discriminatory attitudes through gender equality education (the Czech Republic and Peru); training teachers on gender equality (Greece, Haiti and Oman); eliminating gender stereotypes from textbooks (the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Oman and Turkey); and mainstreaming gender perspectives in teaching materials and strategies (Peru).

[1] Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

10. Economic inequality between men and women and discrimination against women in the economic sector contribute to the perpetuation of women's subordinate status in society, which places them at an increased risk of violence. As a consequence, States are implementing measures to support women's economic empowerment to, inter alia, increase access to credit and skills training (Finland, Greece, Peru and Turkey); reduce the wage gap between men and women (Finland and Ukraine); and encourage female entrepreneurship and promote flexible working hours (the Netherlands).

11. A few States reported on increases in resources allocated for gender equality programmes. For example, the budget of Canada's national machinery for the advancement of women grew by 40 per cent in 2007. Other States, such as Norway and Peru, have used gender-responsive budgeting to promote gender equality, while Algeria has started to integrate gender perspectives in budget analysis.

B. Policy frameworks and resources to address violence against women

12. Violence against women has wide-ranging consequences for women, their families and communities and high costs for society as a whole. The prevention and elimination of such violence can be accelerated through implementation of dedicated plans and policies, such as national action plans that address violence against women in a comprehensive manner; integration of measures to address violence against women into various programme areas; and enhanced allocation of resources for such work.

13. States increasingly have in place national action plans on violence against women which may include measures aimed at supporting victims/survivors; awareness-raising, education and sensitization components; training and capacity-building efforts; and initiatives aimed at prosecution, punishment and rehabilitation of perpetrators. Some action plans address all forms of violence against women, as is the case in Ecuador (adopted in 2007), Haiti (adopted in 2005), Peru (second plan, 2008-2015) and Slovakia (2005-2008). Algeria adopted a national strategy on violence against women in 2007. France's second national action plan (2008-2010), entitled "Twelve goals to combat violence against women", has four main areas of focus: enhanced understanding of the phenomenon through research and data collection; prevention of violence through addressing stereotypes in media, awareness-raising and measures aimed at perpetrators; better coordination of work on violence against women through capacity-building and partnerships; and protection of women and their children through legislation and support mechanisms.

14. Plans that address particular forms of violence, such as domestic violence or sexual violence, are also in place. National action plans on domestic violence have been adopted by Albania (2007), Denmark (2005-2008), Germany (second plan, 2007), the Netherlands (ending in 2008), Norway (third plan, 2008-2011), Portugal (third plan, 2007) and Turkey (2007-2010). Belgium's national action plan on domestic violence ended in 2007 and will be succeeded by a national action plan covering all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation, forced marriages and honour crimes. A cross-Government action plan on sexual violence and abuse was launched in the United Kingdom in 2007.

15. The importance and usefulness of action plans is confirmed by the fact that some States, including France, Germany, Norway, Peru and Portugal, have in place a second or third plan. Impact assessments of earlier efforts guide the development of new plans or result in intensified future action, as in Denmark, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom. Other States, including Australia, Hungary, Slovakia and Thailand, are in the process of developing national plans or strategies on violence against women, while the Czech Republic and Estonia aim to develop national action plans on domestic violence.

16. National action plans on violence against women sometimes encompass strategies to respond to the consequences of violence and victims' specific needs. Australia's draft national action plan recognizes that domestic violence contributes to homelessness and contemplates dedicating $A 150 million to the construction of 600 homes to accommodate the homeless, including women and children escaping domestic violence. Portugal's third national action plan on domestic violence includes measures to facilitate the integration of victims/survivors into the labour force.

17. The integration of measures to eliminate violence against women into national plans and programmes results in greater attention to the issue across sectors and by a broader range of stakeholders. There has been some effort to mainstream measures to eliminate violence against women into national development plans (Ecuador, Mexico and Turkey); national action plans on gender equality (the Czech Republic, Finland and Luxembourg); or into particular sectoral plans or programmes, such as on social inclusion (Greece), or on reduction of violence and internal security (Finland). Prevention of violence against women is a goal in Finland's 2007 Government Programme, as well as in a number of action programmes. Some measures to address domestic violence have been integrated into Saudi Arabia's national programme for family security.

18. Information received for the present report suggests that States are devoting more resources to prevent and address violence against women. Centres providing services to victims/survivors of violence against women (Austria, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom), specialist services (the United Kingdom), shelters (Denmark, the Netherlands), perpetrator programmes (Belgium, Denmark) and community projects by women's groups addressing violence against women (Canada) are receiving increased funding. There have also been increases in budget allocations for the implementation of policies (Brazil) and laws (Mexico) on violence against women. In addition to the budget allocated for implementation of its national action plan to combat domestic violence, 2005-2008, Denmark provided significant additional funds to support and treat victims of domestic violence.

19. States have also expanded their contributions aimed at the elimination of violence against women through international cooperation. The Netherlands has allocated €21 million for a period of three years to support national efforts in eight countries for the development and implementation of national action plans on violence against women, and contributed €4 million to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. Australia's overseas aid agency is evaluating interventions to address violence against women in five countries in the region in order to strengthen and scale up support.

C. Measures to end impunity and protect women against violence

20. Failure to hold perpetrators of violence against women accountable results in impunity. Comprehensive and non-discriminatory legislation covering all forms of violence against women, and its effective implementation and monitoring, are a prerequisite for eliminating impunity. Access to justice for victims, including through awareness of rights and availability of effective remedies, legal assistance in dealing with the justice system, well-trained and gender-sensitive police, and court protocols and procedures that avoid revictimization, are also critical. Special measures are needed to protect women in situations of increased risk, such as in conflict and post-conflict situations, from violence and prevent impunity.

1. Enactment, strengthening and amendment of laws

21. States are increasingly enacting new, or enhancing existing, laws on violence against women, such as the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence adopted by Mexico in 2008. New legislation has been adopted in a number of countries to address specific forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence (Brazil and Greece in 2006; Albania, Switzerland, Thailand and Viet Nam in 2007), forced marriages (Belgium and the United Kingdom in 2007), sexual harassment (Greece in 2006), stalking (Germany and Liechtenstein in 2007), marital rape (Greece in 2006, Thailand and Viet Nam in 2007) and illegal sterilization (Slovakia in 2005). Brazil's "Maria da Penha" law, of 2006, uses a wide-ranging definition of domestic violence that covers physical, sexual, psychological, economic/property and moral violence; acknowledges the right of women to be free from violence irrespective of their sexual orientation; provides for preventative arrests; and significantly increases penalties for perpetrators. San Marino is drafting a law on violence against women.

22. The submissions received for the present report suggest a growing trend towards enacting and/or amending laws to criminalize acts of violence against women and bring penalties for perpetrators in line with the severity of the crime, with a view to ending impunity. A revision of the law in Colombia made domestic violence a crime, as opposed to an offence, and increased the penalties. A new criminal offence of "recurring abuse" has been added to the domestic violence law in Chile. Breaking a "non-molestation" order in the United Kingdom has become a criminal offence subject to up to five years' imprisonment. Twenty-nine states in Mexico criminalize domestic violence. Laws in Chile and Thailand have been amended to broaden the definition of rape and increase the penalties for sexual violence. Turkey also revised its law in 2004 to ensure that perpetrators of honour and customs killings receive the highest punishment while Haiti reclassified sexual crimes as crimes against the individual rather than the community.

23. States have also amended laws to broaden the definition of domestic violence (Japan and Turkey in 2007). States have added provisions that create restraining orders (Hungary in 2006, the Netherlands); provide for the expulsion of perpetrators of domestic violence from the common dwelling (the Czech Republic and Switzerland in 2007); and prohibit sexual intimidation (the Netherlands in 2006). Laws on forced marriage and female genital mutilation have been strengthened in France.

24. Austria is broadening the definition of domestic violence in its 1997 Act on protection against violence by removing the requirement of a "family-like" relationship between a perpetrator and victim of domestic violence, and is drafting a bill to create a separate offence for repeat offenders. Chile has submitted bills to parliament to address femicide and increase penalties for crimes against intimate partners. Finland is considering making petty assault in a close relationship a public prosecution offence. Two bills aim to broaden the scope of Jamaica's legislation on sexual violence. The penalization of domestic violence is a priority in Algeria's strategy to combat violence against women.

25. Legislation has been enacted to enhance protection of particular groups of women from violence. Some States provide for higher penalties for violence against disabled women (Algeria and Brazil in 2006), pregnant women (Algeria and Greece in 2006) and domestic workers (Brazil in 2006, Peru in 2007). In 2007, France extended the right of residence to certain foreign/immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence.

26. Inadequate reporting of cases of violence against women continues to be a challenge in addressing violence against women. According to one estimate, only about 12 per cent of domestic violence cases are reported (the Netherlands). Some States, such as Switzerland, have attempted to address this challenge by enhancing legislation that ensures support to victims/survivors. Liechtenstein's 2008 Victims Assistance Act provides such support through counselling services and financial assistance, and also establishes a Victim Counselling Office. According to the Act, victims are entitled to compensation from the State for both material and non-material injuries.

27. Several States have revised their procedural laws and rules in order to better support victims and ensure that their cases are heard expeditiously. In some instances, victims must be notified of all procedural steps (Brazil), while in others, rules are in place that establish timelines for courts and other institutions to take action in cases of violence against women (Australia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

2. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws

28. The availability of specialized police, prosecutors and courts for cases of violence against women contributes to the effective implementation and enforcement of laws and enhances victims' access to justice. The United Kingdom has specialist police officers to investigate rape cases, as well as rape prosecutors, and has established 98 domestic violence courts. One hundred criminal courts on domestic violence are functioning across Brazil and the number of police precincts with expertise in dealing with victims of violence has increased significantly since 2006. All police districts in Norway are required to have a full-time domestic violence coordinator and specialized teams are in place in the largest districts. A special prosecutor for crimes of violence against women and trafficking in persons has been established within the office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico.

29. Guidelines and protocols have been instituted by States to establish appropriate and predictable standards in the implementation of laws. Protocols have been created for police and security forces handling cases of violence against women, for example in Argentina and Turkey. Sentencing guidelines for judges

contribute to greater consistency in domestic violence cases, as in the United Kingdom. Belgium is developing such guidelines. A "rule book" for implementation and monitoring of measures for the protection of victims of domestic violence was developed in 2007 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

30. States have taken steps to increase cooperation among stakeholders and to enhance implementation of laws. Federal-Länder working groups on domestic violence in Germany have resulted in extensive interdisciplinary cooperation between the federal and Länder Governments and non-governmental organizations. The United Kingdom Crown Prosecution Service's violence against women strategy and action plans aim to improve coordination in the prosecution of such crimes. In addition, a domestic violence enforcement campaign launched in December 2007 seeks to establish partnerships between police, charities and communities to increase reporting and bring more perpetrators to justice. In an effort to increase reporting on, and cooperation among professionals involved in violence against women cases, the Netherlands has established a website and a privacy help desk that provides clarification on rules relating to the exchange of data.

31. Some States, including Australia, Germany and Luxembourg, have stepped up measures to monitor implementation of laws and evaluate their legal and judicial systems' response to cases of violence against women. The Maria da Penha Observatory in Brazil monitors implementation of the domestic violence law by police, prosecutors, judges, relevant officials in the executive branch and service providers. Peru has established a working group composed of public and private sector stakeholders to evaluate existing legislation on family and sexual violence and propose improvements.

3. Increasing awareness of laws and remedies

32. Women's knowledge of their rights and how to claim them contributes to ending impunity for violence against women. States have taken various measures, such as establishing resource centres, conducting awareness campaigns, producing films and brochures and creating websites, to increase women's awareness of their rights and of legal remedies. Canada's National Clearinghouse on Family Violence is a resource centre for information on violence within relationships with over 130 publications, a video library and a referral service for victims of violence. States have produced guides, in the form of pamphlets and DVDs, to familiarize women with legal proceedings (Japan and the United Kingdom). The United Kingdom's court guidance, "Domestic Violence: A Guide to Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions", has recently been updated. Films in 10 languages and leaflets in 9 languages, providing information on rights and opportunities for assistance in cases of violence against women, have been produced and disseminated in Denmark and Japan, respectively. Particular efforts are being made to ensure that information is accessible, and websites containing comprehensive information on domestic violence exist in the Netherlands and are being developed in Belgium and Portugal. A guide for assistance to victims/survivors of violence through the legal process is being developed in Haiti.

4. Legal support and assistance

33. Several States have instituted measures to strengthen access to justice and redress through the legal process for victims of violence against women, including

by ensuring that victims are accompanied in court proceedings (Austria and Brazil). States, such as the Netherlands and Peru, are providing free legal assistance to victims/survivors of violence against women. Australia has in place special measures to ensure that such assistance is available to indigenous women who are victims/survivors of violence or at risk of such violence. According to Portugal's third national action plan on domestic violence, only the victim's income, as opposed to the family's income, will be used to determine eligibility for legal aid, thereby increasing the number of women eligible for such assistance.

5. Protection of women in situations of greater risk

34. Women are at greater risk of violence in some situations, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, and States are responding to these risks. Measures to provide medical care, shelter and indemnification to women victims of violence in armed conflict have been instituted in Algeria and all local officers have been instructed to support victims of sexual violence. Colombia's national policy on peace and reconciliation identifies violence against women as a priority, and its policy for reintegration into civilian life of members of paramilitary groups includes measures aimed at the prevention of violence against women. Colombia has also developed a handbook on gender-based violence for members of the National Reconciliation Commission, as well as guidelines prohibiting violence against women for military forces. Peru's law on internally displaced persons contemplates measures to address violence against women.

35. Some States have taken measures to avoid the revictimization of women refugees or asylum-seekers who are victims/survivors of violence through gender-sensitive refugee and asylum procedures. In April 2008, Canada updated its guidelines for processing claims for refugee protection to give special consideration to victims/survivors of violence against women and prioritize their applications.

D. Prevention measures

36. Prevention of violence against women requires changing attitudes, challenging stereotypes and making the environment less conducive to such violence. Measures to strengthen gender equality frameworks and eliminate discrimination against women, discussed in section II.A, contribute to the prevention of violence against women. States that provided information for the present report also highlighted measures of leadership and awareness-raising, as well as work to increase the involvement of men and boys and to change the behaviour of perpetrators. Women facing discrimination on multiple grounds are at greater risk of violence and targeted prevention policies are therefore necessary. The links between violence against women and their increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS require particular attention. The impact of different prevention measures, however, remains difficult to evaluate.

1. Exercising leadership

37. Ending violence against women requires clear political will and commitment at the highest levels of leadership of the State to highlight the unacceptability of such violence. As part of his campaign to end violence against women and girls, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is personally approaching world leaders to

spur action through national campaigns. Albania's Prime Minister declared the year 2008 as the "Year for the fight against domestic violence"; the Speaker of Parliament condemned domestic violence in televised public service announcements from November 2007 to January 2008, and parliament designated 30 November 2007 as the official parliamentary day against domestic violence. The President of Finland and the Cabinet have, respectively, expressed a commitment to strengthen gender equality and more effectively address violence against women. In 2008, mayors from the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince committed to combating violence against women in the Haitian capital.

38. San Marino organized a high-level event at United Nations Headquarters in June 2008 in support of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women. France is considering a series of interventions and projects to address violence against women during its Presidency of the European Union (second half of 2008).

2. Awareness-raising

39. Increased public awareness may contribute to the prevention of violence against women and many States have initiated or supported awareness-raising campaigns. Such campaigns expose and convey the unacceptability of violence against women and are instrumental in stimulating change. Many have utilized creative and innovative ways to reach diverse audiences, including through use of print media, the Internet, radio, television, film, theatre, art, sports and popular culture, including music and videos.

40. Member States of the Council of Europe have participated in the campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, which formally concluded in June 2008. Member States of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) are participating in a campaign to eliminate violence against women. Campaigns on violence against women were launched by Albania, Denmark, Belgium's Flemish community and the Netherlands in 2007 and Finland, Belgium's French community and Viet Nam in early 2008. France plans to launch a communications campaign in the second trimester of 2008. Many States, including Greece, Japan, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine, undertake specific activities on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and the campaign 16 Days of Activisim to End Gender Violence, from 25 November to 10 December.

41. States have also taken other measures to raise awareness of violence against women, including creation of popular radio soap operas addressing the issue (Peru); development of short films on the subject by recognized filmmakers (France); development of fact sheets for the media and the public (Switzerland); development of pamphlets, CDs and information kits (Peru, Thailand); a national essay competition on the theme of domestic violence (Albania); an art competition for youth on the theme of violence against women (San Marino); and workshops on prevention of violence against women for diverse audiences (Chile, Jamaica).

3. Working with men and boys

42. Awareness of the importance of the involvement of men and boys in efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women is growing, and many States are expanding their efforts in this area. Measures include: campaigns targeting men and

boys (Denmark and the Philippines); awareness-raising programmes for groups of men, such as members of the armed forces and military recruits (Colombia and Turkey); and opening a dialogue on women and men working together to identify and overcome obstacles to gender equality, including violence against women (the United Kingdom). In the Philippines, a men's group, Men Opposed to Violence against Women Everywhere (MOVE) has been established. A network of "men against violence" centres is active in seven regions of Ukraine. The United Kingdom has funded organizations that target men and boys in efforts to prevent violence against women.

4. Programmes for perpetrators

43. In addition to ending impunity for acts of violence against women by punishing perpetrators, States, including Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Philippines, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, increasingly have in place treatment programmes in order to change behaviour and prevent further acts of violence. Measures have been taken to improve, better coordinate and publicize such programmes, including through conducting research to identify good practice models for working with perpetrators (Australia); organizing annual national round tables of counselling centres for perpetrators of violence to promote coordination (Switzerland); and developing a resource guide to such programmes (Canada). There is also a trend towards expanding the availability of treatment programmes. In the United Kingdom, for example, all probation areas have domestic abuse perpetrator programmes, which were completed by 1,800 offenders in 2007. Norway's third national action plan on domestic violence contemplates the development of treatment programmes and their availability in all parts of the country, including in prisons.

5. Prevention of violence against women and multiple discrimination

44. Women's risk of becoming victims of violence is exacerbated by factors such as age, ethnicity, migrant or minority status, and disability or HIV status, and several States have in place targeted prevention programmes to address these factors. Canada is taking special measures to strengthen prevention of violence against aboriginal, immigrant and minority women, as well as senior and young women. Germany's second national action plan on violence against women focuses on prevention of violence against migrant women and women with disabilities. Several other States aim to prevent violence against migrant women, including through orientation and settlement education programmes (Australia) and dissemination of fact sheets explaining the rights of migrant women in domestic violence situations (Switzerland).

45. Australia aims to break the cycle of violence against indigenous women through prevention programmes that address substance abuse, build self-esteem, encourage youth to achieve goals, support family units and develop community role models. Such programmes also seek to develop an understanding among indigenous communities that customary law and practice cannot override legal and human rights, in particular the right of women to be free of violence and sexual abuse.

46. Brazil has taken initiatives to address the links between violence against women and women's and girls' high vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. One of the main goals of Brazil's National Pact to Curb Violence against Women is the protection of

women's sexual and reproductive rights and countering the feminization of HIV/AIDS. In this context, workshops have been organized to enhance awareness of the links between sexual violence and the spread of HIV, and victims/survivors of sexual violence receive HIV preventive drugs.

E. Services and support for victims of violence against women

47. Victims/survivors of violence against women require a range of services, including medical, psychological, legal and social services that respond to their short-term injuries, protect them from further violations and address longer-term needs. They also require access to information, counselling and referrals, and safe shelter if they have to flee from their homes.

1. Integrated services

48. The model of bringing together a range of services for victims/survivors of violence against women in a single location, often called a "one-stop centre", is being increasingly used by States. Integrated services are provided through intervention centres in Austria; 58 centres for women in Chile (first established in 2005); 15 intervention centres in the Czech Republic (first established in 2007); 10 regional crisis centres in Hungary (first established in 2004); a victims counselling office in Liechtenstein (established in 2008); one-stop "woman- and child-friendly investigation studios" in key cities of the Philippines; 109 one-stop crisis centres in hospitals throughout Thailand; and 40 family counselling and 72 community centres in Turkey. In Ukraine, 22 centres provide psychological assistance and 4 centres provide medical and social services for victims/survivors of domestic violence. In Japan, authorized facilities in prefectures serve as spousal violence counselling and support centres.

49. States are expanding the availability of and funding for services for victims. The number of women's centres in Chile has doubled since they were first established in 2005. The network of sexual assault referral centres in the United Kingdom will be extended from 19 to at least 36 by the end of 2008 and sexual violence advisers will be installed in 38 locations to provide support for victims of sexual violence. Some States fund non-governmental organizations to provide services. Australia funds 24 organizations to provide specialized family violence services through 41 offices across the country.

2. Hotlines and shelters

50. Many States, including Austria, Denmark, France, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Thailand, have established hotlines or helplines that provide information, counselling, and support and referral services for victims/survivors of violence against women. These hotlines/helplines are reporting increased call volume over time, which is an indication that more women are aware of their availability and seeking their services. For example, Mexico's hotline registered a 27 per cent increase in call volume following a 2007 campaign; Argentina's helpline registered a notable increase in call volume between 2005 and 2008; and Brazil's national call centre registered almost 125,000 calls in 2007, representing a 147 per cent increase compared with 2006. An anonymous reporting

line was established in Japan in 2007 to make the availability of protection for victims/survivors of violence against women better known.

51. States, including Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Thailand and Turkey, are establishing, expanding or funding shelters for women fleeing from abusive situations. Chile established 16 shelters in 2007; Haiti recently established its first publicly funded shelter; and Oman plans to establish shelters. Shelters in Luxembourg provide 5.1 beds per 10,000 inhabitants, which exceeds the Council of Europe's expert group recommendation of 1 bed per 7,500 inhabitants. States, such as Mexico and the Netherlands, have formalized the regulation and operation of shelters through legislation.

3. Guidelines for service provision

52. In order to ensure better and more consistent services to women victims of violence, States have developed guidelines or recommendations for the provision of such services, including for health professionals (Chile) and local authorities (Finland). Slovakia is in the process of drafting such guidelines for health professionals. The Philippines' Performance Standards and Assessment Tools for Services Addressing Violence against Women establishes standards for capacity-building of service providers, as well as for required facilities, protocols and referral services.

F. Capacity-building

53. Specialized training is increasingly viewed as essential for the effective implementation of laws as well as the provision of services. It builds the capacity of those who have professional responsibility to address cases of violence against women. In addition, specialized training for those who have the power to influence social norms and practices, including teachers, community leaders and media personnel, can be instrumental in the prevention of violence against women.

54. Many States, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru and the United Kingdom, provide education and training on violence against women to relevant players, such as health professionals, Governmental officials, including police and prosecutors, judges, social workers, teachers and/or service providers. Such training may be part of the basic training, as is the case of police training in Austria and Liechtenstein, or it may be in-service training, such as the training of police and health personnel in Turkey. Doctors in Saudi Arabia and judges in the United Arab Emirates who handle cases of violence against women also receive specialized training. Gender thematic seminars are being planned for judges in all parts of Brazil.

55. Of the reporting States, only Peru discussed impact evaluation, noting that a 2007 evaluation of the impact of training of the Lima national police showed improvements in police actions with respect to victims/survivors of violence against women, quality of statements prepared by police, and police partnerships with other stakeholders.

56. Other capacity-building measures for those that come into contact with victims include: workshops for journalists to ensure gender-sensitive reporting of cases of violence against women in the mass media (Peru); a nationwide educational

campaign for professionals addressing violence against women (Denmark, 2008); the establishment of a university diploma programme on prevention and treatment of family violence (Argentina); and development of a guide to enable doctors and nurses to detect cases of violence against women and provide appropriate care (Belgium).

G. Data collection

57. The development of sound and effective policies benefits from quality data and research on the scope, magnitude, causes, consequences and costs of the phenomenon, and States are increasingly ensuring that their policies and programmes are informed by a stronger knowledge base.

1. Data collection through surveys

58. Several States reported about their efforts to collect information on violence against women through surveys. Norway's 2005 nationwide survey on domestic violence showed that one in four women over 15 years had been subjected to, or threatened with, intimate partner violence and 9.3 per cent of women who ever had a partner had been subjected to severe intimate partner violence. A further survey is planned in Norway in 2009. Nationwide representative surveys on domestic violence conducted in Finland in 1997 and 2006 did not show a significant change in the extent of such violence, while those in Denmark in 2004 and 2007 showed a one third decrease in the number of women victims of domestic violence. Random sample surveys on domestic violence conducted in Japan at regular intervals show that many women continued to be subjected to such violence. Portugal completed its second national inquiry on gender-based violence and planned to release the findings in June 2008. The Netherlands will conduct a national survey on domestic violence in 2008. Mexico is drafting a "National Assessment on the Status of Gender Violence" to determine the magnitude, forms and settings of violence against women to inform Government policies. It is also developing a national database on violence against women.

59. States have used other types of surveys, such as crime victim, safety and opinion surveys, to shed light on the scope of violence against women. France conducted a survey on victims of violence in 2007 which showed that the proportion of female victims of violence was significantly higher than male victims and that perpetrators of violence were overwhelmingly male. Data collected through safety surveys in Australia in 1996 and 2005 indicated an increase in women reporting physical and sexual assaults. A survey conducted in the Czech Republic in 2007 showed that 36 per cent of the persons polled believed that domestic violence occurred often and 37 per cent believed that it occurred sporadically.

60. Several responses noted that difficulties in collecting data on violence against women and the lack of systematic nationwide data collection on the issue remained challenges in addressing violence against women (Albania, Australia, Finland, Hungary and Viet Nam).

2. Service-based data

61. States are increasingly compiling service-based data on violence against women, including through health centres and hospitals (Belgium, Peru and Saudi

Arabia); police stations and courts (Albania, the Czech Republic, France, Finland, Hungary, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom); housing and social welfare services (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); and hotlines, shelters and other support services (Greece and Peru). A publication by Statistics Canada entitled *Measuring Violence against Women: Statistical Trends* pulls together previously released data from victimization surveys, police services, courts and service agencies to assess trends in violence against women. Switzerland is revising its police crime statistics to include data specific to domestic violence. States, including Argentina, Belgium, the Philippines and Portugal, are responding to challenges in collecting and aggregating service-based data by establishing uniform systems of reporting and registering cases of violence against women.

3. Research to inform policy

62. States are increasingly making available resources for research on violence against women, including on domestic violence (Albania, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Haiti, Turkey, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom); homicides within couples (Switzerland); sexual assault (Australia and the United Kingdom); violence against domestic workers (Peru); and stalking, female genital mutilation and forced marriage (the United Kingdom). In Germany, a broad-based study on violence against women informed the development of the second plan of action in 2007. Qatar carried out a field study on violence against women. Saudi Arabia convened a national expert group on family violence in May 2008 which identified needs for intervention and made concrete recommendations for action across sectors.

III. Measures taken by United Nations bodies to implement the resolution

63. The General Assembly, in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 61/143, invited relevant United Nations bodies to discuss, within their respective mandates, the question of violence against women and to set priorities for addressing this issue in their future efforts and work programmes, and requested the Statistical Commission to develop and propose, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women, a set of possible indicators on violence against women.

A. Setting priorities for future work

64. Several United Nations bodies have taken measures to comply with the resolution. The Economic and Social Council held a round-table discussion in July 2008 on the role of the Council in addressing violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, in the form of a dialogue with the Chairpersons of the Commission for Social Development, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development. The Chairpersons provided examples of steps taken and opportunities for contributing to the common challenge of addressing violence against women in the future. Council members made comments and recommendations on the role of the Council in addressing this challenge within its own mandate, including in its oversight function in regard to the functional commissions.

65. The Commission on the Status of Women regularly addresses violence against women as a form of discrimination against women within its mandate. At its fifty-first session in 2007, the Commission considered the priority theme of "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" and adopted agreed conclusions[2] with recommendations for action by different stakeholders. The Commission also held an interactive panel discussion on follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) at national and international levels, under its agenda item on emerging issues. It has addressed violence against women in relation to HIV/AIDS; female genital mutilation and forced marriage and the girl child. The Commission regularly holds joint discussions with the Statistical Commission, including on the question of violence against women. The Secretary-General launched his campaign to end violence against women and girls at the opening meeting of the fifty-second session of the Commission, on 25 February 2008, with the participation of the President of the Economic and Social Council and in the presence of many ministers, high-level representatives of the United Nations system and an unprecedented number of representatives of non-governmental organizations from around the world.

66. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice addresses the criminal justice aspects of violence against women. At its seventeenth session in April 2008, the Commission held a thematic discussion on the aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to its work, with the participation of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women. It adopted decision 17/1 entitled "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls",[3] requesting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the Commission on the Status of Women and other stakeholders, to convene an intergovernmental group of experts to review and update, where appropriate, the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and to make recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls. The Commission will consider the results of the meeting at its nineteenth session.

67. The Commission on Population and Development, at its fortieth session in 2007, was briefed by the Division for the Advancement of Women on the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. The Commission subsequently invited Member States to include information on strategies adopted to address violence against women in their national reports.

68. The Commission for Social Development, at its forty-sixth session in February 2008, considered the issue of violence against women within its priority theme, "Promoting full employment and decent work for all". The Commission was briefed by the International Labour Organization on "Full employment and decent work: intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women". The presentation covered the most effective policy interventions to eliminate all forms of violence against women in the workplace.

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[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7* (E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 10* (E/2008/10-E/CN.15/2008/22), chap. I, sect. D.

69. The Gender Advisory Board to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development submitted recommendations to the Commission at its eleventh session in 2008 suggesting that it monitor, document and raise awareness of the use of science and technology and Internet communication technologies to perpetrate violence against women, and document and disseminate how science and technology can be used to avoid, address and mitigate violence against women.

70. Violence against indigenous women has been a consistent concern of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Permanent Forum issued recommendations in 2003, 2004 and 2006 on violence against women, including the sexual exploitation of indigenous girls, domestic violence and sexual abuse, and sexual violence in the context of armed conflict.

71. The Human Rights Council, at its eighth session in June 2008, held a discussion on violence against women in its consideration of the human rights of women, where the need for legislation, awareness-raising, attention to victims and involvement of men were highlighted.

B. Work on development of indicators

72. In response to paragraph 18 of resolution 61/143, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women held a joint dialogue on indicators on violence against women, on 28 February 2008. The meeting discussed the proposal for a set of global indicators to measure the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women, put forward by the expert group meeting convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistics Division of the United Nations, in collaboration with the other four regional commissions, in October 2007. The Statistical Commission subsequently approved the formation of a "friends of the chair" group to conduct an in-depth technical review of proposed indicators to measure violence against women and requested the group to report back to the Commission at its fortieth session.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

73. **A comprehensive approach is necessary in order to make progress in preventing and effectively responding to all forms of violence against women. In their efforts to address the structural causes of violence against women, States have taken measures to promote gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women. States should continue these efforts and place high priority on enhancing legal and policy frameworks for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including by integrating relevant measures into national development plans and programmes and poverty eradication strategies. States should also put in place efforts in the education system and public awareness-raising measures, to modify and eliminate sociocultural attitudes and stereotypes that are harmful to and discriminate against women and perpetuate the subordination of women.**

74. **A growing number of States have in place new, or strengthened existing legislation on violence against women, especially on domestic violence. They are criminalizing acts of violence against women and ensure that penalties for**

perpetrators are commensurate with the severity of the crimes. Procedures, rules and protocols have been revised and specialized mechanisms put in place to improve implementation.

75. **In order to end impunity, States should ensure that legislation is in place that comprehensively addresses all forms of violence against women, is in line with international commitments, and imposes penalties for perpetrators that are commensurate with the severity of the crimes. States should intensify efforts to evaluate and assess the impact of legislation, rules and procedures, including the reasons for low reporting, and respond promptly to the findings. They should have in place victim support legislation that is sensitive to the needs of victims of all forms of violence against women, and consider incorporating into law measures aimed at prevention of violence. Particular efforts should be made to fully sensitize all relevant officials to all forms of violence against women and existing laws, policies and regulations, and monitor their compliance with this framework.**

76. **A number of States have in place national action plans on violence against women or on specific forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, to ensure comprehensive, interdisciplinary and coordinated action. States should continue to adopt, or revise and update, national action plans and ensure that they incorporate measurable goals and timetables as well as monitoring measures. States should ensure that their development and implementation, as well as their regular updating or revision, utilizes insights gained from impact evaluations and all available data and research. They should also ensure that national action plans effectively integrate the contributions of all relevant stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary service sectors that work with, or come in contact with, victims of violence against women and can contribute to prevention and effective response.**

77. **Measures have been taken to enhance women's awareness of laws and remedies. Integrated services — medical, psychological, social and legal — are increasingly available for victims/survivors of violence against women. Attention has been paid to the protection of women in situations of increased risk. States should continue and reinforce these efforts in order to enhance victims' access to justice and empowerment. They should take concrete steps to strengthen women's awareness of their rights and legal remedies. They should expand the availability of specialized services for victims that are adequate and accessible and foster women's safety and agency. States should strengthen the capacity of service providers, including by ensuring that resources are available to support victims.**

78. **States have undertaken measures to enhance prevention of violence against women. They should continue to do so, and in particular provide leadership at the highest levels, recognize and support the role of women's organizations, including at the grass-roots level, and accelerate efforts to involve men and boys in highlighting the unacceptability of all forms of violence against women as a violation of women's human rights.**

79. **Data and information on all forms of violence against women, from different sources, remain inadequate. Lack of such data, and of qualitative research, on the scope of violence and its impact on the victims, their families**

and societies constitutes a challenge to effective prevention and response. States should therefore intensify their data-collection efforts and fully integrate data on violence against women in their national data-collection systems. They should significantly increase efforts aimed at evaluating the impact of all initiatives on violence against women, including legislation, policies and their implementation, provision of services and prevention, to better understand the effectiveness of specific measures, enable corrective action and contribute to the development of good practice.

80. **Several United Nations bodies have addressed the issue of violence against women within their respective mandates in response to the resolution. The General Assembly may wish to encourage all relevant bodies to continue and expand these efforts.**

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Trafficking in women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/144, provides information on the measures taken by Member States and activities undertaken within the United Nations system to combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls. The report concludes with recommendations for future action.

* A/63/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/144, on trafficking in women and girls, the General Assembly called on Governments to strengthen their national efforts to combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls, and to implement actions at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels in cooperation with all relevant actors, including States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society; called upon Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, strengthen preventive action, protect and support victims of trafficking, and enhance information-sharing and data collection; requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-third session a report that compiled successful interventions and strategies, as well as challenges, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons, that identified gender-related aspects of anti-trafficking efforts that remained unaddressed or inadequately addressed, and that evaluated measures taken through appropriate indicators. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and is based, inter alia, on information received from Member States, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations. It covers the period since the last report (A/59/185) up to 6 June 2008.

II. Measures reported by Member States

2. As at 6 June 2008, 40 Member States responded to the Secretary-General's request for information relating to the implementation of resolution 61/144.[1] Information was provided on a range of measures taken to combat trafficking in women and girls, including strengthening legal frameworks, putting in place strategies for better coordination and cooperation with different stakeholders and at the bilateral and multilateral levels, and reinforcing prevention action and efforts to prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims.

A. International instruments[2]

3. The international legal framework obligates and guides States in the adoption of their own anti-trafficking laws and policies, and provides a framework for States in their collaboration to fight human trafficking. Since the last report, issued in 2004, there has been a substantial increase in the number of States parties to international instruments relevant to combating trafficking in women and girls. As at June 2008, 144 States had ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, while 118 States had ratified or acceded to its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially

[1] Replies were received from Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Qatar, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

[2] Information in this section is taken from government submissions, the multilateral treaties website of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and the websites of the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Women and Children, and 112 States had ratified or acceded to the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Of the Member States that submitted information for the present report, Belgium, Chile, Germany, Hungary, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had become party to the Convention and the two Protocols; Colombia had become party to the Convention and the Trafficking Protocol; Brunei Darussalam, Luxembourg, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates had become party to the Convention; Australia had become party to the Trafficking Protocol; Egypt had become a party to the Migrants Protocol; and Slovakia had become party to both Protocols.

4. As at June 2008, 126 Member States had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and 90 had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Of the Member States reporting, Albania, Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Estonia, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Slovenia and Thailand had become party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Argentina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Lithuania, Nigeria, San Marino and the United Kingdom had become party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Many of the reporting Member States are a party to all the instruments mentioned in paragraph 5 of resolution 61/144 (Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). A number of States are a party to all except one of the instruments (Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Lebanon, Nigeria, Russian Federation and United Kingdom).

6. Germany indicated that it was preparing to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, while Luxembourg was taking steps to approve the Trafficking Protocol and the Czech Republic was making efforts to amend its criminal law in order to ratify the Organized Crime Convention, the Trafficking Protocol and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

7. States indicated their adherence to other international and regional instruments relevant to the issue of trafficking in women and girls, including the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Norway, Portugal and Slovakia; Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom were preparing for ratification, while Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had signed and Estonia was preparing to sign); the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Egypt, Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); the 1994 Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors (Ecuador and Peru); and the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Colombia).

B. Legislation and the justice system

8. A comprehensive legal framework, including criminalization, prevention measures and protection and support for victims, is crucial in effectively addressing trafficking in women and girls. Significant strides have been made in strengthening legal frameworks and bringing legislation in line with international and regional standards for combating and eliminating trafficking in women and girls. Many States have revised their criminal codes and other laws, and a number of States have adopted new legislation, including anti-trafficking acts incorporating prevention and protection measures.

9. Specifically, States have reported the inclusion of explicit criminal offences on human trafficking in their penal codes, as well as in immigration and asylum laws (Albania, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom). Some of these laws cover different forms of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, or removal of organs. Penalties include fines and imprisonment, which average between 3 and 15 years, with increases for aggravating circumstances. In some countries, such as Germany and Liechtenstein, criminal law covers human trafficking offences committed in other countries, while in others, such as Canada, the law includes specific provisions prohibiting child sexual exploitation. Other offences under which trafficking offences could be subsumed were also mentioned, such as slavery (Australia and Egypt), kidnapping (Algeria, Canada and Russian Federation), abduction of minors from the care of their parents (Germany), coercion and threats (Liechtenstein and Norway), and sexual and commercial exploitation of children and women (Egypt).

10. Increasingly, States have in place legal frameworks for combating trafficking in persons that are broad in scope, covering trafficking offences as well as prevention and protection measures. Several States have adopted a comprehensive law that criminalizes human trafficking and also provides for a range of other measures (Bahrain, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines and Thailand), such as protection, support and services for victims; compensation to victims for damages; prevention measures; cooperation between different stakeholders; and the establishment of national bodies to address issues related to trafficking in persons. Other States have separate laws or provisions to protect and assist victims, covering, for example, the issuance of residence permits (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway and Portugal); compensation for damages (Bulgaria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Viet Nam); and support and services (Azerbaijan, Liechtenstein and Portugal), including assistance for reintegration of trafficked women returning from abroad (Viet Nam). Efforts are under way in several States to draft anti-trafficking legislation (Chile, Egypt and Russian Federation), which in at least one case would also include measures of protection and assistance for victims (Luxembourg).

11. States have enhanced measures in their criminal procedure to protect and assist victims of trafficking. For example, criminal procedure codes or related laws provide for witness protection programmes (Germany, Hungary, Jamaica, Lithuania,

Nigeria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), special measures to support victims in giving evidence (Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Germany, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation and United Kingdom), the availability of complete information to victims (Germany, Hungary and Liechtenstein), and exclusion of the public from court (Brunei Darussalam, Germany and Liechtenstein). Training programmes and materials on human trafficking have been provided to police and/or prosecutors in a number of countries (Australia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Norway, Philippines, Qatar and United Kingdom), and special police and/or prosecution units have been established (Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Greece, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines and Slovakia).

C. National action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms

12. National action plans offer a framework for the design, development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies, for ensuring that responses to human trafficking are coordinated and that impact assessments are undertaken. Such plans are in place in many countries (Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Viet Nam). They commonly include measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute trafficking; to support, assist and reintegrate victims; develop laws; to undertake research and collect data; to train police, legal, immigration, health and other personnel; and to promote cooperation among those involved in combating human trafficking. At least one country (Thailand) also has in place indicators to monitor and evaluate the implementation of its national action plan. Belgium and Peru are developing new national action plans to combat human trafficking. In Colombia, efforts are under way to put in place plans of action to combat human trafficking at the local level.

13. Several States, including Albania, Argentina, the Czech Republic and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have national action plans or programmes to combat trafficking in children. Germany has incorporated trafficking in women as a cross-cutting issue in its action plan to combat violence against women and has also addressed trafficking in its action plans on children. Canada's national action plan for children contains strategies to address sexual exploitation of children, while Luxembourg's national action plan for equality between women and men includes measures to combat trafficking in women and girls.

14. Dedicated national mechanisms to improve coordination among different stakeholders in the development and implementation of laws and policies, including national action plans, have been established by many States, including Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovakia, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. In many cases, those mechanisms consist of representatives of governmental bodies, including law enforcement, prosecution and immigration authorities and service providers, as well as civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations

(NGOs), and international organizations. Guidelines on coordination and action among agencies (Thailand), standard operative procedures for dealing with victims (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and other tools have been developed as part of the strategies to ensure effective action.

D. Bilateral, regional and international agreements and cooperation

15. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation are key to combating and eliminating trafficking in women and girls, which is frequently a crime of an international nature, crossing borders and jurisdictions. Many States have strengthened such cooperation. Bilateral agreements/arrangements have been concluded by Algeria, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Viet Nam. At the regional level, a memorandum of understanding on cooperation against trafficking in persons in the Greater Mekong Subregion was signed by six countries and an agreement on cooperation in combating trafficking in persons, human organs and tissues was concluded by member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation. The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and associated countries agreed to undertake a trafficking in persons information and prevention campaign. The European Union adopted a plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings. Australia reported on the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which aims to raise awareness, encourage bilateral action and develop regional measures to prevent and intercept trafficking and smuggling. Nigeria referred to the multilateral cooperation agreement to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in West and Central Africa, and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, adopted within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States.

16. To improve law enforcement and prosecution efforts, cooperation and exchange of information are taking place between police and prosecution authorities in a number of countries, including through INTERPOL, Europol or Eurojust (Canada, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Some States participate in regional task forces or networks to combat trafficking in persons, such as those established under the auspices of the Baltic Sea States (Estonia, Lithuania, Norway and Russian Federation). Several States have hosted or participated in regional or international conferences/meetings on trafficking in persons (Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Greece, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, San Marino and United Kingdom).

17. Most States cooperate in and/or support bilateral and/or multilateral programmes and projects to combat trafficking in persons, together with United Nations and regional entities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other States. These projects cover a range of initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking, including awareness-raising; training of law enforcement, judicial and other personnel; enhancing victim support and assistance; economically empowering women and girls; rehabilitating and reintegrating rescued victims; exchanging information and best practices; and conducting studies on the scope and nature of trafficking.

E. Prevention measures, including awareness-raising, and capacity-building

18. Prevention is integral to any strategy to combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls and many States include prevention measures in their national plans of action and in their laws. Educational programmes on gender equality and women's human rights, and awareness-raising and information campaigns aimed at improving knowledge of human trafficking and awareness of potential risks and of existing anti-trafficking measures, are seen as important tools for prevention. Many States have implemented such programmes and campaigns, including Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam. Activities have included the publication of articles, posters, advertisements and information sheets in electronic and print media; the airing of television programmes and videos and creation of anti-trafficking websites; the screening of films and documentaries; the inclusion of human trafficking in school curricula; and public performances, debates and plays. Many of the activities were carried out in multiple languages and in cooperation with a range of partners, including NGOs, the media, the business sector and international and regional organizations.

19. States conducted general as well as targeted information campaigns. A number of campaigns dealt with the demand for sexual services. For example, as part of its review to address the demand for prostitution, the United Kingdom carried out an awareness campaign among male purchasers of sexual services about the exploitation and trafficking of women involved in the sex industry. The Czech Republic and Norway conducted similar campaigns and Luxembourg's national action plan for equality between women and men includes awareness-raising among customers of prostitution about the risks of trafficking. Australia implemented a targeted communications strategy on trafficking to educate people working in the sex industry and those who come in contact with them. Other targeted campaigns were directed at rural areas and at-risk groups, such as unemployed persons or persons who dropped out of school (Lithuania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). In the Philippines, orientation seminars were conducted for potential migrant workers prior to their departure. Information campaigns to raise awareness among hotel and tourism enterprises were organized in Mexico and Peru.

20. Prevention efforts also focused on addressing the conditions that make people vulnerable to being trafficked, including through development projects and cooperation in countries of origin that promote gender equality and the enjoyment by women of their human rights (Canada, Germany, Norway and United Kingdom). Other efforts focused on poverty eradication activities aimed at women's economic empowerment including, for example, the provision of microcredit (Albania, Algeria, Nigeria, Qatar and Viet Nam); measures to improve access of girls and women to education (Albania); vocational training for women (Albania and Thailand); and programmes and outreach directed at groups at risk (Canada, Jamaica and Mexico), such as Mexico's working group to protect children living on the streets from being trafficked. Initiatives were also started to engage the general public in efforts to combat trafficking, for example, the anonymous hotline in Japan.

Australia posted specialists in strategic overseas locations to examine visa applications for fraud that might lead to trafficking and to analyse trends in visa processing.

21. All those who respond to trafficking in women and girls, such as law enforcement officers, immigration, judicial and medical personnel and social workers, require the capacity to deal with trafficking in a gender-sensitive and effective manner. The availability and use of training programmes, guidelines and manuals relating to trafficking in women and girls and women's human rights contribute to such efforts. Many States carried out training of government officials, police officers, judicial personnel, social workers, health workers, teachers and other professionals on the issue of trafficking, including Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Lithuania, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Viet Nam. Such training was often carried out in cooperation with civil society, regional and international partners, as well as other States, and included efforts to develop skills to successfully investigate and prosecute perpetrators and to identify, protect and support victims. Training on trafficking for personnel serving in peacekeeping or other international operations was also provided (Norway).

22. Capacity-building efforts have also included the establishment of new institutions, such as the human trafficking centre in the United Kingdom, which provides a central point for the development of expertise and the strategic and operational coordination in combating human trafficking; a centre for information and analysis on trafficking in human beings and smuggling in Belgium; and a trafficking in children unit in Egypt.

F. The role of the business sector and media providers

23. The business sector is a critical partner in helping to eliminate trafficking in women and girls. Regulatory mechanisms, such as codes of conduct, setting out measures and tools to prevent and combat trafficking are increasingly being drawn up and adopted by the business community. For example, many companies have signed on to the Athens Ethical Principles of 2006 whereby companies declare zero tolerance to human trafficking. A project supported by Germany to sensitize the tourism industries in Albania and Montenegro to commercial sexual exploitation of children resulted in more than 300 tourism companies signing the International Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. The tourism industries in several other countries have signed that code or similar codes (Bulgaria, Japan and Peru). Public-private partnerships have worked to establish child exploitation tracking systems to help police track information relating to online child exploitation (Australia, Canada and United Kingdom). Some countries recognized the need to strengthen collaboration with the private sector (Hungary and Jamaica).

24. Media providers have played a crucial role in raising awareness and disseminating information in many countries. They also have a key role in regulating advertisements and information that can fuel the demand for trafficking in women and girls. In the United Kingdom, newspaper representatives reviewed

their guidance for advertisements to ensure it fully reflected concerns about human trafficking. Lithuania amended laws to reduce advertising of sexual services in the media. Efforts have been made in several countries to address the posting on websites of pornographic and/or sexual tourism-related materials (Belgium, Qatar and Russian Federation).

G. Services and support for victims

25. Victims of trafficking must be correctly identified so that they can be provided with protection and further violation of their rights avoided. In addition, victims need a range of services, including social support, rehabilitation and reintegration measures so that they can recover from the trauma of their experience. Both elements are critical and increasingly form part of States' comprehensive strategies to combat trafficking in women and girls.

26. Some States have taken new initiatives to better identify victims, for example, through the development of indicators, guidance material and specific victim strategies (Norway and United Kingdom).

27. Programmes to provide victims with psychological, medical, legal and social/financial assistance, and shelters and/or crisis centres have been established or reinforced in many countries, often in cooperation with NGOs and other partners, or by NGOs with financial support from States, including in Albania, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. In most of these countries, hotlines or helplines to provide information and assistance to victims also exist. In addition, specialized services for child victims of trafficking have been established. The United Arab Emirates has taken measures to enforce labour contracts and improve the conditions of foreign workers. Reintegration programmes have been organized in several countries, often in cooperation with IOM (Lithuania, Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Viet Nam). Such programmes and support are an integral part of national plans or strategies, for example, in Colombia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania and Norway. In some cases, they are grounded in legislation, such as the victims assistance act in Liechtenstein.

28. Centralized mechanisms exist to better coordinate assistance to victims. For example, Colombia's anti-trafficking centre provides information and services for victims and Norway created a national coordinating unit for assistance and protection for victims. In a number of countries, national referral mechanisms have been established or are being developed to ensure effective assistance and protection of victims (Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), including victim identification.

29. In several countries, victims are granted a recovery and reflection period to give them time to reflect and consider their options (Belgium, Canada, Greece, Hungary, Norway and United Kingdom). In a number of countries, temporary, or in some cases unlimited, residence permits or stays are granted (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway and

Portugal). In many countries, however, granting residence permits is conditional upon assisting with investigation or prosecution.

H. Data collection and research

30. Trafficking in women and girls remains an underdocumented form of violence against women (see A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1). Availability of better data is critical for informed and improved legal and policy development and design and implementation of other targeted measures, including services for victims, as well as for assessing the impact of measures taken. Currently, States are compiling data and information on trafficking in women and girls primarily from crime and judicial statistics, immigration records and from victim support services. Although several States provided their available data on victims, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of human trafficking (Australia, Belgium, Ecuador, Estonia, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam), the number of cases that come to the attention of the police, courts or service providers are small and estimates of the number of victims vary.

31. Given the importance of a strong knowledge base for effective action, States are making efforts to enhance data collection and analysis on trafficking in persons through, for example, research programmes, training and studies (Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Egypt, Hungary, Mexico, Norway and Portugal). Other efforts include a feasibility study on developing a national data collection framework (Canada); the creation of a national information system on trafficking (Colombia); the establishment of databases (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Nigeria and Thailand); operations focused on intelligence-gathering (United Kingdom); and the development of indicators (Portugal and Viet Nam). Some States, such as Hungary, include improvement of data collection as a specific aim in their anti-trafficking national strategies. Portugal is in the process of establishing an observatory on trafficking in persons.

III. Activities undertaken within the United Nations system

32. Intergovernmental and expert bodies continue to address trafficking in women and girls, and global meetings and discussions have been held on the issue. Entities of the United Nations system undertake work on combating trafficking in women and girls, including analysis, studies and initiatives in support of national and regional efforts. Emphasis has been placed on improving cooperation and collaboration and on strengthening a multi-stakeholder, holistic approach to combating trafficking. A key aspect has been support for the development of strategic partnerships among government actors, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders. As at 6 June 2008, 10 entities of the United Nations system had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information.[3]

A. Global legal and policy development

1. Resolutions and recommendations

33. Legal and policy development continues through resolutions and recommendations adopted by United Nations intergovernmental and expert bodies. For example, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its fifteenth session (27 May 2005 and 24-28 April 2006), adopted a draft resolution on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking, which was subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 2006/27). At its seventh session (3-28 March 2008), the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 7/29 on the rights of the child, which addressed the issue of trafficking in children. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, which held its first session from 7 to 18 April and second session from 5 to 19 May 2008, included the problem of trafficking in women and girls and made recommendations to address this phenomenon in 22 of the 32 countries it considered.[4]

34. Special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council devoted attention to and made recommendations on how to address trafficking in persons, especially women and children. For example, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, recommended the adoption of laws to provide protection to victims in accordance with international human rights standards and to prosecute the users and abusers of trafficked persons (see A/HRC/4/34 and A/HRC/7/6). The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants called on States to provide irregular migrants perceived to be involved in trafficking and smuggling practices with guarantees of due process (A/HRC/7/12). The Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and

[3] Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

[4] Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mali, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine and Zambia. (See the OHCHR website at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/search.aspx.)

children, considered the phenomenon of forced marriages of women and girls in the context of trafficking in persons and recommended the implementation of laws to prevent trafficking and prosecute offenders and provide assistance to victims (A/HRC/4/23).

35. The human rights treaty bodies established under major international human rights treaties continued to address issues relating to trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in their concluding observations on the reports of States parties.[5] They have expressed deep concern regarding the persistence of trafficking despite the adoption by States parties of legislation, national action plans and other measures. As a result, they have emphasized the importance of the effective implementation of laws and policies and the need to monitor and analyse the impact of measures adopted. In particular, treaty bodies have recommended that States parties allocate adequate funding for the implementation of measures; adopt, amend or strengthen legislation on trafficking; ensure effective prosecution and punishment of offenders and impose penalties commensurate with the seriousness of the acts; implement training and capacity-building for law enforcement, border patrol and immigration officials, as well as lawyers, prosecutors, judges, parliamentarians, health professionals, local government personnel, media professionals, social workers, teachers and school administrators; ensure that victims are correctly identified and not penalized, and that services are in place for their rehabilitation and reintegration; increase bilateral, regional and international cooperation on the issue; systematically compile and analyse data in order to fully assess the scope of trafficking in women and girls, including internal trafficking; strengthen preventive measures, including through awareness-raising campaigns that target disadvantaged and marginalized groups, and that address the demand for trafficking victims; and deal with the root causes of trafficking, including discrimination and violence against women, and women's disadvantaged social and economic situation.

2. Global meetings and discussions

36. The first-ever global forum to fight human trafficking took place in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008. The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, which was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), brought together over 1,500 government officials, business leaders, NGOs, academics, United Nations entities and other organizations, and victims of trafficking. The objectives of the Vienna Forum were to raise awareness about human trafficking, forge new partnerships and facilitate cooperation. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat provided media support for the Vienna Forum. (For the report of the Vienna Forum, see http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/ebook2.pdf.)

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[5] See the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/sessions.htm); the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/sessions.htm); the Committee on Migrant Workers (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/sessions.htm); the Human Rights Committee (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/sessions.htm); the Committee Against Torture (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/sessions.htm); and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds71.htm).

37. The General Assembly held a thematic debate on human trafficking on 3 June 2008. The event focused on ways forward in the global fight against trafficking and helped to generate fresh impetus among Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen cooperation and fully implement existing international agreements. (There have also been a number of regional policy and legal developments, including the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, adopted by the European Union and African States Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held in Tripoli on 22 and 23 November 2006; and the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which entered into force on 1 February 2008.)

B. Initiatives by United Nations entities, including activities in support of national efforts

1. Coordination efforts

38. The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, facilitated by UNODC, was launched in March 2007 and involves entities of the United Nations system, regional organizations, civil society groups and the private sector. (Members of the Global Initiative's Steering Committee include UNODC, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.) The Global Initiative aims to increase public awareness of trafficking; strengthen prevention; reduce demand; rescue and protect victims; improve the effectiveness of law enforcement; ensure the implementation of international commitments; strengthen partnerships; and improve data collection.

39. Since 2006, a broad range of activities and partners have been coordinated through the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, chaired by UNODC. (The following United Nations entities participate in the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group: the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, OHCHR, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank. Other participants include INTERPOL and IOM.) The Group aims to improve cooperation and coordination between United Nations entities and other international organizations to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including the protection of, and support for, victims of trafficking. The Intergovernmental Organization Contact Group on Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling is coordinated by the Trafficking Adviser of OHCHR and includes OHCHR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), ILO and IOM as well as a representative from the NGO Caucus on Trafficking. The Contact Group continues to strengthen cooperation between international organizations working on trafficking, in particular in areas of law and policy.

2. Studies and reports

40. Entities of the United Nations system convene meetings of experts and policymakers, and prepare reports and analysis that facilitate the work of

intergovernmental and expert bodies and contribute to the development of global responses to trafficking in women and girls.

41. In the Secretary-General's 2006 in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1), trafficking in women was addressed as one of the forms of violence against women. The study pointed out that available statistics on trafficking were often unreliable and noted the lack of comprehensive laws on trafficking in women, the inadequacy of protective measures for trafficked women, the treatment of trafficked women as criminals rather than victims and the obstacles victims of trafficking encountered in accessing services.

42. The Secretary-General's study on violence against children (A/61/299) highlighted different forms of violence against children, including trafficking. It recommended that appropriate legal frameworks be developed consistent with international standards and that domestic laws against trafficking in persons be fully implemented. It also recommended that efforts be strengthened to protect all children from trafficking and sexual exploitation, including through bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation and harmonizing legal definitions, procedures and cooperation at all levels.

43. On the occasion of the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat prepared a report (E/CN.6/2005/2 and Corr.1), which highlighted the need for States to adopt and actively implement comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive strategies in order to combat trafficking and noted that approaches should include adoption and consistent enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation in line with international instruments to which States were party, as well as the implementation of policy measures aimed at preventing trafficking, punishing offenders and protecting victims.

44. Trafficking in women and girls has been discussed at expert group meetings, including those convened at the regional level by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The findings and recommendations from such meetings are regularly included in reports to intergovernmental bodies.

3. Data collection, research and support for policy development

45. United Nations entities and other organizations are working to improve the availability of data on trafficking in women and girls. The collection and analysis of data on trafficking patterns and modalities, routes and flows, and counter-trafficking measures is part of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) anti-trafficking projects. Databases on trafficking, which are used in the development of prevention strategies and responses to trafficking, have been established and maintained, including by IOM and UNODC.

46. Different United Nations entities have undertaken or supported research initiatives that have informed legal and policy development and highlighted promising interventions to combat human trafficking. For example, UNIFEM has supported a number of initiatives on research and data collection, in particular in South Asia, which have focused on analyses of national law and policy frameworks as well as research and data collection on trends and root causes of trafficking in women. OHCHR convened, together with the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, three expert consultations on research methodologies on trafficking in persons. The

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) carried out research on the existing legal protections for women migrant workers in Uzbekistan and made recommendations to state bodies on how to address existing gaps in laws and services pertaining to migration. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) carried out research on factors leading to human trafficking in six pilot countries in Africa (Benin, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo), disseminated the resulting collection of good practices to support policymakers and published five policy papers (see http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?req=2&mt=100&mt_p=%3C&by=2&sc1=1&look=default&sc2=1&lin=1&mode=e&futf8=1&gp=1&text=Human+Trafficking&text_p=inc&submit=%C2%A0%C2%A0Search%C2%A0%C2%A0).

4. Awareness-raising, advocacy and other prevention measures

47. United Nations entities continue to engage in and/or support awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns and outreach activities to raise knowledge of trafficking in women and girls. UNIFEM has created coalitions of media persons against trafficking and uses alternative media and theatre for skill-building, research, awareness-raising and advocacy. UNICRI carried out awareness campaigns on trafficking in women and minors to sensitize potential victims, political and religious leaders, public institutions and the general public, including in Costa Rica, Italy, Nigeria and Ukraine. IOM also carried out information campaigns in both source and destination countries targeted at the general public and vulnerable populations. A UNDP-supported programme in Armenia established migrant support points in different cities to track migrant flows and provide migrants with information about the credibility of future employers.

48. United Nations entities are increasingly drawing attention to the linkages between trafficking and HIV/AIDS. For instance, UNDP in 2006 completed a three-year project designed to reduce the dual vulnerability to human trafficking and HIV/AIDS in South Asia. UNESCO has developed projects to fight human trafficking by informing women and girls of the threat of trafficking and linking trafficking and HIV/AIDS.

49. The importance of engaging men and boys in efforts to prevent trafficking in women and girls has been emphasized, including in respect of efforts to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls. UNFPA carries out campaigns targeting men and boys and UNIFEM initiatives include the development of a toolkit for working with men and boys to combat trafficking and violence against women and children.

5. Capacity-building

50. The United Nations system continues to provide support on capacity-building measures in the area of trafficking in women and girls for different stakeholders, including government and civil society actors, at the national and local levels. Programmes include UNFPA-supported training of national police and immigration officials in Timor-Leste; UNDP-supported training of law enforcers in Mongolia; UNIFEM training of NGO personnel and the police in using mental health interventions for victims in several states in India and Nepal; UNICRI training courses for specialists working on the national hotline on trafficking in children in Ukraine and training for judges and prosecutors in Costa Rica; and OHCHR training

and consultations with government officials and support for research in Nepal. Capacity-building efforts have also been carried out by ESCAP, UNODC, ILO and IOM.

51. Training tools produced by United Nations entities to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to address trafficking in women and girls include the UNICRI multidisciplinary training manual for all stakeholders involved in preventing and addressing trafficking in minors in Thailand; the UNFPA-supported guidelines for health service providers and other managers; and the UNODC toolkit to enable Governments, policymakers, police, NGOs and others to address human trafficking more effectively.

6. Support for legislative development

52. United Nations entities have collaborated with national authorities and machineries for the advancement of women to improve laws to combat trafficking in women and girls. For example, UNFPA supported the drafting of laws to address human trafficking in Indonesia and provided technical assistance for the creation of a secretariat to assist with the law on human trafficking in Ghana. UNDP supported revision of the criminal code in Mongolia to redefine human trafficking as a serious crime with associated penalties.

53. UNODC is finalizing model legislation on trafficking in persons intended as a guide for States in implementing the Trafficking Protocol. The objectives of the model law are to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, with particular attention to women and children; to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, while maintaining full respect for their human rights; and to promote and facilitate national and international cooperation in order to meet those objectives.

7. Services for victims/survivors of trafficking

54. United Nations entities continue to support different stakeholders in enhancing services for women victims of trafficking. For instance, UNDP supported an NGO in Armenia that provides free shelter, medical treatment and legal representation in court to trafficked women and reintegration assistance that empowers women economically and socially. Building on the lessons learned from the pilot phase completed in 2004, UNICRI recently started a programme on trafficking in women and adolescents from Nigeria to Italy. Programme components are being implemented in both countries and include capacity-building and technical support for NGOs to provide psychosocial, health and professional counselling to victims and their families, legal and administrative assistance, and information to victims about alternative strategies to make a living, as well as direct assistance to victims. UNFPA provides reproductive health services and counselling to victims in its programmes, while UNIFEM uses interventions ranging from prevention and protection to safe exit, reintegration and rehabilitation to address trafficking in a holistic manner. UNIFEM has also developed a guideline for undertaking resource mapping for alternative livelihood options.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

55. **Many actions have been taken at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls. The number of States parties to relevant international instruments has increased considerably. Many States have strengthened their national legal and policy frameworks. Efforts have been made to strengthen action and coordination among a range of different stakeholders and to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation.**

56. **Despite these developments, trafficking in persons persists. It is a crime that is often transboundary, takes place in multiple settings and usually involves perpetrators at different levels. A comprehensive, coordinated, cohesive and gender-sensitive approach is therefore required among different stakeholders and partners that addresses the root causes and risk factors that make women and girls vulnerable to being trafficked and ensures prosecution of the perpetrators and protection and support for victims. Strategic partnerships among government actors, NGOs, the private sector and others are vital.**

57. **Many States now have a specific criminal offence of human trafficking in their laws; in others, a number of related offences are applicable to trafficking. Some States focus primarily on criminalizing human trafficking, while others have expanded legislation and included measures for prevention and protection in their laws. Several States have adopted one comprehensive act covering all areas.**

58. **States should continue to ratify and implement international instruments. They should continue to review and revise national legal frameworks to ensure compliance with their international obligations, including the criminalization of all forms of trafficking in persons of all ages, with penalties that are commensurate with other serious crimes, and provisions in law for prevention measures and protection and support for victims, in accordance with human rights standards. Mechanisms should be in place to monitor the implementation of all anti-trafficking laws. Efforts should be reinforced to ensure that all perpetrators are prosecuted and receive appropriate sentences in line with the seriousness of the crime.**

59. **States should ensure that national anti-trafficking action plans and strategies are in place that are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope, incorporate measurable goals and timetables, as well as monitoring and accountability measures, provide for impact assessments and ensure coordination of action among all stakeholders. Such sectoral plans should also be effectively coordinated with national gender equality and development policies and strategies for greater effectiveness. Coordination mechanisms should be in place to support the implementation of such plans and strategies. States should continue to conclude and implement bilateral and multilateral agreements and cooperation programmes to facilitate effective action in all areas, including law enforcement and prosecution, prevention and capacity-building, and victim support and assistance, and to exchange information and good practices in combating trafficking in women and girls.**

60. **Many States take prevention measures and have carried out educational programmes and information and awareness campaigns. States should continue these efforts and ensure that prevention initiatives are included in any strategy to combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls. Measures should be put in place to address the conditions that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, including poverty, unemployment, limited education and discrimination against women in law and practice, including violence against them. States should ensure that such programmes and campaigns focus on the promotion of gender equality and women's enjoyment of their human rights, including their rights as victims of trafficking; highlight risks and dangers of human trafficking; and draw attention to existing anti-trafficking measures such as laws and support services. Information and awareness campaigns should be targeted at groups that are at risk; the tourism, hotel and media industries; as well as the population as a whole.**

61. **Many States have organized training programmes for police, judicial personnel, social and health workers, teachers and others. States should reinforce those programmes and ensure that they are systematic and that all persons responding to trafficking in women and girls and dealing with trafficking victims have the capacity to do so effectively with full respect for the human rights of the victims. Cooperation with the private sector has been increasing, but States have recognized that such collaboration needs to be strengthened. States should intensify efforts to engage and partner with the private sector, including by supporting the adoption of self-regulatory codes of conduct.**

62. **Significant efforts have been made in many countries to strengthen support systems for victims. States should continue and reinforce such efforts and should ensure that victims of trafficking are correctly identified and given the support and protection to which they are entitled in accordance with human rights standards and the principle of non-punishment. Victims should be protected from re-victimization, including protection from prosecution for illegal migration, labour law violations or other acts, and receive protection during criminal proceedings against offenders. Victims should be provided with information about their rights and empowered to claim those rights. They should be given support and protection, including legal, psychological, medical and social assistance; access to shelters; compensation for damages; alternative employment programmes; and residence permits or extended stays in third countries. Measures to protect and support victims, including the granting of residence permits or stays, should be unconditional and independent of a victim's ability or willingness to assist in the investigation or prosecution of offenders. Efforts to assess the impact of measures taken should be enhanced.**

63. **Reliable data on the scope and nature of trafficking in women and girls are lacking. While States are making some efforts to improve the knowledge base, there is a need for more and better-quality data to guide the development of national policies and programmes, monitor their impact and assess progress in addressing trafficking in women and girls. Data collection and analysis should be accelerated and qualitative research intensified to facilitate improved understanding and more efficient and effective responses to this phenomenon.**